



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,582	03/20/2007	Ikuo Kawamoto	062649	1771
38834 7590 04/07/2008 WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER				
NGUYEN, LAUREN				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2871				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/07/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/582,582

Applicant(s)

KAWAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

LAUREN NGUYEN

Art Unit

2871

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-854)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/12/2008 and 11/28/2007

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of **Group I** invention, including **claims 1-5 and 16**, in the reply filed on 03/06/2008 is acknowledged.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted was filed on and after the mailing date of the instant application on 06/12/2006 and 11/26/2007. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

a. A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. **Claims 1 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Kawata et al. (US 2004/0004688)**.

7. With respect to **claim 1**, as shown in figures 1-2, **Kawata et al.** discloses an elliptically polarizing plate comprising a polarizer (see at least paragraph 0388, lines 3-8), a protective layer formed on one side of the polarizer (the alignment layer, see at least paragraphs 0047 and 0049), a first birefringent layer serving as a $\lambda/2$ plate, and a second birefringent layer serving as a $\lambda/4$ plate in the order given, wherein the first birefringent layer and the second birefringent layer are each formed by using a liquid crystal material (see at least paragraphs 0041 and 0047).
8. With respect to **claim 16**, as shown in figures 1-2, **Kawata et al.** discloses an image display apparatus comprising the elliptically polarizing plate according to claim 1 (see at least paragraph 0001).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. **Claims 2-3** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kawata et al.**
11. With respect to **2-3**, **Kawata et al.** discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1** above. However, **Kawata et al.** does not disclose the first birefringent layer has a thickness of 0.5 to 5 μm and the second birefringent layer has a thickness of 0.3 to 3 μm . **Kawata et al.** (in at paragraphs 0049-0050) teaches the first birefringent layer has a thickness of 0.5 to 5 μm and the second birefringent layer has a thickness of 0.3 to 3 μm (0.05 to 1 μm). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the thickness of the birefringent layers, since it has

been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233. In addition, in the case where the claimed ranges "overlap or lie inside ranges disclosed by the prior art" a prima facie case of obviousness exists. *In re Wertheim*, 541 F.2d 257, 191 USPQ 90 (CCPA 1976); *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See MPEP § 2131.05.

12. **Claims 4-5** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kawata et al.** in view of **Tillin et al.** (US 6,577,364).

13. With respect to **claims 4-5**, **Kawata et al.** discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claims 1 to 3** above. However, **Kawata et al.** does not disclose the limitations of **claims 4-5**. **Tillin et al.** (in at least column 11, lines 1-40, figure 13) teaches a slow axis (8) of the first birefringent layer (4) is defined at one angle of +8.degree. to +38.degree. and -8.degree. to -38.degree. with respect to an absorption axis (6) of the polarizer (1) and the absorption axis of the polarizer and a slow axis of the second birefringent layer are substantially perpendicular to each other ($2 \times 22.5 + 45 = 90$ degrees). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the slow axes of the first and second birefringent layers as taught by **Tillin et al.** because such modification would provide a good achromatic black state, good contrast ratio, and extend the viewing angles.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lauren Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 270-1428. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 2871

/Andrew Schechter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2871